(b) the reasons for providing these facilities to Uttaranchal;

(c) the points relevant to Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand out of the above reasons; and

(d) whether the facilities provided to Uttaranchal will be given for Chhattisgarh also, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Government announced a package of economic incentives on 07.01.2003 for promoting industrialization in the State of Uttaranchal. Under this package, various incentives like income tax exemption, excise exemption and Capital Investment Subsidy to new industrial units and existing industrial units on their substantial expansion in the identified locations have been provided. These concessions were announced keeping in view that the State of Uttaranchal is hilly, remote and inaccessible. The States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand do not have any such geographical constraints. There is no proposal to provide a similar package of incentives for the State of Chhattisgarh.

Proposal of USA and European Countries regarding agricultural products of India

†1750. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA and European countries have put a proposal before India that it should make its market free for import of agricultural products and reduce the taxes on imports so that they could reduce subsidy on agricultural products in their country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the import duty with regard to USA imports is already less in India; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) In the ongoing negotiations on the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), proposals for country-specific market access commitments have not been made by the United States or the European Communities. Cross-linkages across the three pillars, namely, market access, domestic support and export competition, are drawn by some developed countries, including through proposals which implicitly relate the extent of reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and elimination of export subsidies to substantial market access improvements through reductions in bound tariffs in agricultural products in both developed and developing Members.

Though the United States has raised concerns regarding high tariffs and taxes in the agriculture sector in India, including through the 2005 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers released by the United States Trade Representative and sought market-opening opportunities, specific agricultural products or sectors have not been mentioned.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Imports from USA attract the same rate of import duty as imports from any other country with Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status.

Forex from export of services

†1751. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge foreign exchange is being earned by the export of services from India;

(b) the details of foreign exchange earned from this source in the years, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the areas mainly with which the export of services from the country has been associated?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.